



MEMORANDUM

9 September 2013
File No. 37713-040

TO: Environmental Protection Agency
Carolyn J. Casey

C: Sherin and Lodgen
Ronald W. Ruth

FROM: Haley & Aldrich, Inc.
Elliot I. Steinberg, Stephen R. Clough

SUBJECT: Approach for Response to QAPP Data Summary Report Comments
Former USM South Parcel - Retail Portion
Beverly, Massachusetts

This memorandum was prepared to follow-up on our conference call of 14 May 2013 and your email of 12 August 2013, regarding next steps to respond to the draft EPA Technical Review of the QAPP Data Summary Report, received 21 March 2013. We understand the EPA has requested that a "RCRA Corrective Action Ecological Receptor Exposure Pathway Scoping Checklist" (Eco Checklist) be completed for the intertidal area of the Bass River adjacent to the subject Retail Portion of the former United Shoe Machinery (USM) South Parcel. This memorandum presents a work scope for preparation of an Eco Checklist and an approach for further discussion on MCP human health issues.

Eco Checklist

Haley & Aldrich proposes to utilize a "tiered approach" to Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) for the site using the above-referenced Eco Checklist. This qualitative scoping exercise identifies constituents of potential environmental concern (COPECs), key ecological receptors, possible exposure routes and pathways, and the potential for site-related constituents to present a hazard to fish and wildlife.

The Eco Checklist involves a review of "available relevant/significant information on known and reasonably suspected contaminant release" to associated media (soil, groundwater, surface water and sediments). In summary, the proposed work scope to prepare an Eco Checklist includes the following:

- Site reconnaissance of intertidal conditions by a Haley & Aldrich Senior Ecotoxicologist (Stephen R. Clough, Ph.D.);
- Semi-quantitative assessment of benthic substrate type (probing), as well as the type(s) of flora and/or fauna living on or in the substrate (documented using photographs of apparent sources, the potential media of concern and type of habitat);

- Completion of line items in the RCRA Corrective Action Ecological Receptor Exposure Pathway Scoping Checklist (soil, sediment, surface water, groundwater);
- Preparation of attachment presenting “rationale” that summarizes the field observations, applicable analytical data results, and/or possibility for environmental hazard(s).

Human Health

The QAAP Data Summary Report states that “the MCP Class A-3 Response Action Outcome (RAO) Statement – Permanent Solution submitted to MassDEP (RTN 3-00610) in October 1997 concludes that a condition of No Significant Risk was achieved and maintained. Site conditions as further characterized by the QAAP program and described herein (*in the QAAP Data Summary Report*) are also not considered to represent a new reporting obligation under the MCP at 310 CMR 40.0300.” These findings are supported by the explorations and data presented in Appendix C of the QAAP Data Summary Report, and review of these data and the 1997 RAO.

We look forward to resolving the applicable MCP requirements with you and are happy to discuss this issue with you further in a meeting or conference call. If you think a meeting with Paul Locke of MassDEP would be productive, please advise us and we will arrange a meeting.

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